

Dir sir/madam of the FCC:

After having read a CNN article on the issue of consumer telephone billing:
<http://www.cnn.com/2004/TECH/biztech/08/25/phone.fee.fight.ap/index.html>
I wanted to add my comments to the issue.

For years telephone bills, including cellular, have included a long array of charges designed to lead the customer into thinking that some of the fees go directly to the government. The reality is that more than just passing on the costs related to certain services, such as E911, they are including other miscellaneous and soft costs to the surcharges.

Rather than allow this deceptive practice to continue, I would urge the FCC to make it mandatory that all telephone company, including landline, cellular, and now VoIP (such as Vonage), include all these costs in their base monthly rate, and only separate any local, state, or federal taxes. Moreover, those tax rates, especially the state or federal ones, should be clearly and simply stated to the consumer before they begin their service.

These changes will force telephone companies to act like regular businesses, where all costs related to providing basic service are included in their base charges.

Regards,

Frank Bulk